

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 116022

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 116022

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SWEL

SUBJ: GUINEA FONMIN CALLS ON ASSTSECY NEWSOM

REF: CONAKRY 0921

1. GUINEAN FONMIN CISSOKO CALLED ON ASSTSECY NEWSOM MAY 13 ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT TOURE TO CONVEY GOG REQUEST FOR DROUGHT ASSISTANCE. CISSOKO ALSO TRANSMITTED PRESIDENT TOURE'S GREAT PLEASURE AT PROSPECT OF NEWSOM'S JULY VISIT. HE MADE POINT OF ASSURING NEWSOM THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM WITH FLIGHT CLEARANCES FOR ATTACHE PLANE.

2. CISSOKO'S ARGUMENTS IN CONVEYING ASSISTANCE REQUEST WERE ESSENTIALLY SAME AS PREVIOUS GOG DEMARCHES THIS SUBJECT. HE STRESSED THAT GUINEA PREFERRED TO DISCUSS PROBLEM IN PRIVATE WITH FRIENDS, STATED THAT DROUGHT GREATLY AFFECTED NORTHERN AND SOME CENTRAL REGIONS OF COUNTRY, SAID THAT SEKOU TOURE ASKING IN NAME OF GUINEAN PEOPLE RATHER
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PAGE 02 STATE 116022

THAN IN HIS OWN NAME.

3. NEWSOM EXPRESSED REGRET THAT RICE NOT AVAILABLE FOR ANY PROGRAMS, EMERGENCY OR OTHERWISE, AND RELATED SUBSTANCE OF AMBASSADOR TODMAN' S CONVERSATIONS WITH GOG REPORTED IN CONAKRY' S 0917 AND 0921. NEWSOM UNDERLINED AMBASSADOR TODMAN' S SUGGESTION THAT GOG APPROACH WFP AND OTHER SOURCES BECAUSE OF SERIOUS SHORTAGE USG RESOURCES. HE STATED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF GOG' S RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS ITS PROBLEMS IN PUBLIC, BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GOG WOULD COOPERATE FULLY IN ASSISTING OUR EMBASSY AND THE TDY AID MAN FROM DAKAR IN DOCUMENTING THE DIMENSIONS OF THE PROBLEM SO THAT WE COULD MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ON ALLOCATION OF OUR OWN VERY LIMITED RESOURCES.

4. CISSOKO EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR NEWSOM' S SYMPATHETIC EXAMINATION OF GUINEA' S PROBLEM, SAID HE APPRECIATED MANY DEMANDS ON US RESOURCES, AND PROMISED TO CONVEY US RESPONSE AND THE SPIRIT IN WHICH IT WAS GIVEN TO SEKOU TOURE WHEN HE RETURNS (HE DEPARTS NEW YORK JUNE 23). CISSOKO VOICED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT THE US AS FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE SERIOUS ATTENTION TO GUINEA' S REQUEST. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT GOG ALSO WOULD CONSIDER OUR SUGGESTION TO LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR ASSISTANCE AND PROMISED THAT GOG WOULD REVIEW QUESTION OF DOCUMENTATION TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF THE DROUGHT PROBLEM.

5. CISSOKO IN REFERING TO TOLBERT VISIT TO US EXPRESSED HOPE US WOULD BE SYMPATHETIC TO LIBERIAN REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. NEWSOM TOLD CISSOKO THAT LIBERIANS HAD MADE ALMOST IDENTICAL APPROACH ON BEHALF OF GUINEA. HE ASSURED CISSOKO US WAS DOING WHAT IT COULD FOR LIBERIANS AND RESPECT PRESIDENT TOLBERT AND HIS POLICIES.

6. MEMCON WILL BE POUCHED. PORTER

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